RYAN REYNOLDS CAN TALK TO THE ANIMALS

THE ACTOR LOSES IT IN THE NEW DARK COMEDY "THE VOICES." PAGE 18

metro

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Tuesday, February 10, 2015 **www.metro.us | t: MetroNewYork | f: MetroNewYork**

Budget time. Mayor Bill de Blasio's proposed budget adds money for more ambulances and dispatchers, in an effort to reduce response times. PAGE 02

Life saver

A firefighter and a medic carry an injured person to an ambulance in Lower Manhattan. / GETTY IMAGES

Soda health warnings could be on the way

PAGE 04

Drinking with Jake Johnson of 'New Girl'

PAGE 16

Sweet treats for your littlest valentines

PAGE 22

SI swimsuit edition just ain't what it used to be

PAGE 25

1 NEWS

Top 3

The best of Metro.us

1 'INFO: Here is the schedule for NYFW 2015'

2 'VIRAL VIDEO: "Fifty Shades of Grey" Lego trailer is creepy but good'

3 'RECIPE: Valentine's Day chocolate lollipops, the perfect sweet for your sweetie'

On the go

Want to read Metro on your mobile device? Get the app! All you have to do is search for Metro US in the App Store or Google Play to get all the latest in news, sports, lifestyle and entertainment for free.

Mayor Bill de Blasio greets cops at the 25th Precinct last year. His budget includes money for bulletproof vests. / GETTY IMAGES

City budget puts public safety first

Security. De Blasio wants more money going toward public safety programs.

Making sure ambulances get to sick New Yorkers quicker is one of Mayor Bill de Blasio's top priorities in his 2016 budget.

The mayor revealed his $77.7 billion preliminary budget for fiscal year 2016 on Monday, focusing on making New York a safer place to live, promising to clean up Rikers Island and replace all of the NYPD's old bulletproof vests.

De Blasio, who was criticized for not highlighting the problems of community policing during his State of the City address last week, spoke first about FDNY and NYPD allocations after giving an overview of the city and country's economy.

The fire department will receive $11.3 million to add 45 new ambulance shifts, and another $6.7 million to add 149 new EMS dispatchers to improve emergency response time.

De Blasio said the goal is to speed up the average ambulance response times, which is about 6 minutes, 50 seconds, across the city, and especially slower neighborhoods including the South Bronx, western Queens and Staten Island.

In 2014, the FDNY responded to a record 1.3 million emergency calls, and the average response time increased by three seconds. City officials told the AP they want response times to drop to about 6 minutes, 30 seconds.

The budget includes $340 million for universal pre-K and $190 million to expand after-school programs, along with more spending for literacy programs.

Bronx Councilman Andy King told Metro his "favorite takeaway" was the $11 million commitment to the Administration for Children Services for child welfare reforms, training and prevention.

Visit **Metro.us** to read more about the city's budget priorities.

By the numbers

$28M

The FDNY will spend $28 million on new ambulance shifts, EMS dispatchers.

$15.5M

Money spent over next two years to replace old NYPD bulletproof vests.

WENDY JOAN BIDDLECOMBE
Wendy.Biddlecombe@metro.us

Budget

No new cops in budget

Early numbers for New York City's budget did not include an increase in police officers despite ongoing pressure from lawmakers and police leadership.

Mayor Bill de Blasio's preliminary budget does foot the bill for new flak jackets for the NYPD and an expanded police cadet program. But it won't fund more cops.

An ongoing drop in crime means more cops might not be a priority, de Blasio said.

"We'll come back in April," de Blasio said. But his top cop already told state lawmakers he needed more cops on the ground.

"There are not enough, to be quite frank with you," Commissioner Bill Bratton said at a state Senate hearing last week.

Council Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito and Council Finance Committee Chair Julissa Ferreras in a joint statement, said the early budget is a good start but they're disappointed in the lack of new officers.

"The Council believes that raising the head count of NYPD is essential and we will be advocating it strongly this budget cycle."

CHESTER JESUS SORIA

Melissa Mark-Viverito
GETTY IMAGES

Northeast

Storms create road salt shortage

The repeated storms are starting to take a toll on supplies of road salt in the Northeast, with Morton Salt, one of the largest U.S. salt suppliers, running behind on some customer orders, said spokeswoman Denise Lauer.

Spreading salt / GETTY IMAGES

"Supplies have been challenged," Lauer said, adding that a complicating factor has been that many of the trucks the Chicago-based company would contract to deliver salt have been pressed into service for snow removal.

Much of the salt used on U.S. roads is mined in the Northeast, and snow-covered roads are slowing deliveries. REUTERS

Weather. Dry spell continues in New York

New Yorkers have been granted a brief respite from the wintry mix of ice and freezing rain of the past two days.

Joe Pollina, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service, said the dry conditions this morning will continue through Wednesday night.

The city will see "below normal" temperatures in the lower to middle 30s across the city. A snow shower is possible Wednesday night into Thursday morning. The city will dry out again Thursday night.

WENDY JOAN BIDDLECOMBE

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3 new york Tuesday, February 10, 2015

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Date: Tuesday, February 17, 6:00pm – 7:00pm.

Presenter: Nieca Goldberg, MD.

Location: Perlmutter Cancer Center.
160 East 34th Street, 11th Floor, Room 1121.

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Date: Thursday, February 19, 12:00pm – 1:30pm. Lunch will be provided after the program.

Presenter: Ronny Cohen, MD.

Location: Woodhull Medical Center.
Third Floor, Conference Room One, 760 Broadway, at the intersection of Broadway and Flushing Avenue, Brooklyn, NY.

These lectures are free and open to the public, but you must RSVP.
To attend, call 212.263.2266 or visit nyulmc.org/cancer-rsvp
View past lectures at youtube.com/nyulmc

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MADE FOR NEW YORK.

City trucks will have side guards

A side guard on a truck / COURTESY PHOTO

Vision Zero. New equipment is expected to prevent traffic fatalities.

Mayor Bill de Blasio and his Vision Zero plan want to take a bite out of the disproportionately high number of New York pedestrians and bicyclists being killed by trucks.

De Blasio announced Monday that 240 city trucks, including about 100 garbage trucks, will be fitted with side guard rails that protect pedestrians, bicyclists and motorcyclists from being pinned under a vehicle during a collision.

More than 250 people are killed in traffic crashes in New York City every year, according to the city. Trucks make up just 3.6 percent of all vehicles on the road in New York City, but are responsible for 12.3 percent of pedestrian and 32 percent of bicyclist fatalities, the mayor's office said.

Bicycling and pedestrian advocacy group Transportation Alternatives says trucks with more than six wheels have killed 31 people since 2012, and injured 1,161 pedestrians and cyclists.

The guards will cost $3,000 each, and will be installed on trucks from city agencies including parks, consumer affairs and environmental protection. The guards will not be put on street sweepers, fire engines or trucks that weigh less than 10,000 pounds, the mayor's office said.

The guards are a "secondary line of defense," said Paul Steely White, director of Transportation Alternatives. The best way to reduce traffic deaths in the city is to reconfigure dangerous city streets to include bikes lanes and space for pedestrians, he said.

By the numbers

$3K
Cost per sideguard

240
Number of trucks getting sideguards in 2015

250
Number of New Yorkers killed in traffic crashes every year

WENDY JOAN BIDDLECOMBE
Wendy.Biddlecombe@metro.us

Soda. Soft drink warnings on tap

Sodas warrant just as much warning as cigarettes, according to a Bronx Assemblyman.

Bronx Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz revived legislation first introduced last fall to make sugary drinks bear warnings of obesity, diabetes and tooth decay the same way cigarette packs warn about lung cancer and emphysema.

First reported by the New York Post, Dinowitz reintroduced the legislation brought forward last year by former Brooklyn Assemblyman Karim Camara.

Soda. It's what's inside you. / GETTY IMAGES

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February 18th:
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New York leads the US in illegal cigarette sales

Smoking. NYC's higher cigarette taxes have led to a boom in illegal sales.

Almost 60 percent of cigarettes in New York State come in illegally, according to a report by the Tax Foundation.

The fiscally conservative group found New York led the country in the number of inbound smuggled cigarettes — 58 percent. Arizona, at 49.3 percent, had the second highest rate in the U.S.

New York City has the highest cigarette tax, with state taxes at $4.35 per pack, plus an additional $1.50 per pack added by the city.

Statewide, the report also found smuggling has jumped 62 percent since 2006. Taxes on cigarettes also rose, by about 190 percent in that same time period.

Budget documents recently revealed New York State raked in almost $1.3 billion from cigarette sales in 2014, about $171 million less than in 2013.

Tax Foundation Economist Scott Drenkard put the blame for the rise in the illegal trade on unintended consequences.

"High tax rates on cigarettes have led to unreliable revenue and increased criminal activity," Drenkard said in a statement.

In 2014, New York State Attorney General Eric Schniederman's office filed a filed a $70 million lawsuit against FedEx for allegedly shipping almost 80 million illegal cigarettes to across the state the state.

Holy smokes!

60%

Sixty percent of the state's cigarettes arrive illegally.

CHESTER SORIA
@chestersoria
chester.soria@metro.us

Cigarette prices make beer and gas look cheap. / MILES DIXON, METRO

Conviction

Killer stabbed girlfriend

A man convicted of stabbing his girlfriend to death in the Bronx before calling 911 to confess to the killing will spend 22 years to life in prison.

Stephen Bolt, 38, was arrested and charged with second-degree murder on Jan. 23 for the death of his live-in girlfriend, Dawn Monaco, 47.

Authorities said Bolt stabbed Monaco multiple times on or around Jan. 4 in their apartment on East 174th Street. The mother of three bled out from wounds to her neck from a kitchen knife found at the scene.

Investigators said Bolt sat and watched Monaco die, then left a note next to her body three days later.

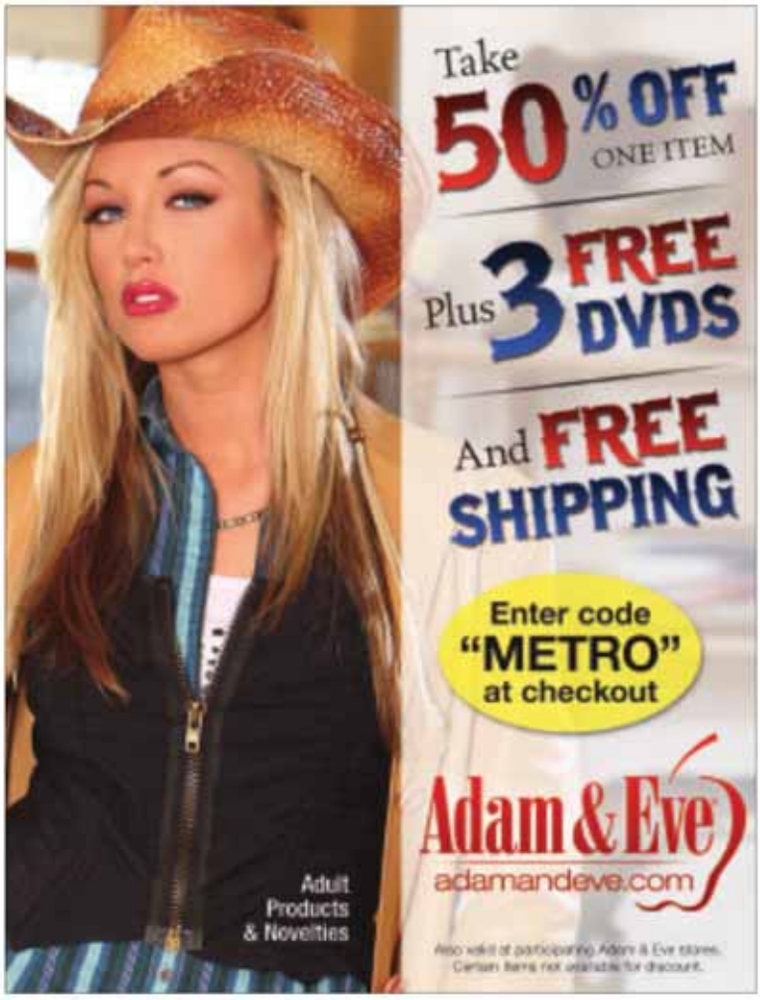
"I always said I would kill you," the note read.

Bolt went on to make multiple calls to 911 from payphones in lower Manhattan. Detectives pieced together information from his calls and found Monaco's body. It wasn't until Bolt called again on Jan. 10, that cops were able to arrest him.

"I lost my best friend and confidante forever, all because Stephen Bolt decided to hold true on a threat and murder my sister," Monaco's brother told the court on Monday.

"If Stephen Bolt is ever let back into mainstream society, he will find another victim to emotionally and physically abuse, ultimately murdering again," he said on behalf of the family.

CHESTER JESUS SORIA



President still weighing decision on arming Ukraine

Ukrainian servicemen patrol with an APC near the eastern Ukrainian town of Debaltseve, in the region of Donetsk. / GETTY IMAGES

Moscow. Sanctions imposed by the EU and United States have badly hurt the Russian economy.

President Barack Obama made clear he was some way from a decision on whether to arm Ukraine in its conflict against Russian-backed rebels, saying on Monday he still hoped for a diplomatic solution.

"The measure by which I make these decisions is: 'Is it more likely to be effective than not?'" Obama said at a news conference with German Chancellor Angela Merkel, who opposes providing Ukraine with weapons to fight separatists in its east.

Russia had violated a September peace deal by sending more tanks and artillery into eastern Ukraine, Obama said, adding that he and Merkel had agreed sanctions must stay for now and Moscow's isolation would worsen if it continued on its current course.

Merkel is due to meet with Russian President Vladimir Putin and Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko on Wednesday with French President Francois Hollande, and European Union ministers held off tightening sanctions on Monday to give the talks a chance.

Merkel and Obama have come under fire from foreign policy hawks in the Republican-controlled Congress who want weapons sent to the Ukraine army.

The Senate and House unanimously passed legislation in December that authorized sending arms for Kiev. Obama signed the measure into law, but it gave him leeway over whether or when to implement it.

Congressional aides said on Monday lawmakers were working on legislation that would commit Obama to providing arms.

But Merkel made clear in Munich her opposition to arming Kiev.

"I understand the debate, but I believe that more weapons will not lead to the progress Ukraine needs. I really doubt that," she said. REUTERS

Troops killed

9

Nine Ukrainian troops were killed in a 24-hour period over Sunday. Seven civilians also died, Kiev said on Monday.

Expert on Minsk talks

'I do not expect quick solutions'

Metro chats with Paul Ivan, an analyst at the European Policy Center in Brussels.

What is expected from this latest round of talks?
Much will depend on the willingness of President Putin to compromise. For the moment he doesn't seem willing to compromise and to respect Ukraine's territorial integrity, so I am rather pessimistic. This might as well become a meeting in a series of meetings.

Is it possible that the Russia-Ukraine problem will be solved then?
The Ukraine conflict has severely damaged relations between the West and Russia, so I do not expect quick solutions. Some agreement will hopefully be reached regarding eastern Ukraine but the breach in trust and the disregard to international rules is very serious.

Is it possible that Russia will be liberated from sanctions soon?
I do not expect a quick lifting of the sanctions. If a deal regarding eastern Ukraine is reached, some of the sanctions will be lifted if the deal will be properly implemented. Other sanctions will remain in place given that it's very unlikely that there will be agreement over Crimea. DMITRY BELYAEV, METRO WORLD NEWS

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Ponzi scheme. Payout to Bernie Madoff victims up to $7.2 billion

The trustee liquidating Bernard Madoff's firm on Monday said he is distributing another $355.8 million to the swindler's victims, bringing the total payout to more than $7.2 billion.

Irving Picard, the trustee, said the payout began on Feb. 6, and covers claims by fraud victims with 1,077 accounts at the former Bernard L. Madoff Investment Securities LLC. Claimants will get between $431 to $67.1 million.

Most of the payout comes from November settlements with the Herald, Primeo and Senator "feeder funds," which Picard accused of sending customer money to Madoff to further his Ponzi scheme. The trustee said claimants on 1,160, or 52 percent, of the 2,216 accounts where he found valid claims have been fully paid.

Picard has recouped roughly $10.55 billion for Madoff victims, or about 60 percent of the estimated $17.5 billion of principal he estimates they lost.

Some of that money has been held back because of pending litigation, including by former Madoff customers who challenge Picard's authority to block their competing claims.

Picard has filed more than 1,000 lawsuits against feeder funds, and former customers he has labeled "net winners" because they took out more from Madoff's firm than they put in. REUTERS

Bernard Madoff / GETTY IMAGES

Prison term

150

Madoff, 76, is serving a 150-year prison term after pleading guilty to running a decades-long fraud that was uncovered in December 2008.

Deputy director of Secret Service out

Blunders. It's the latest top-level departure this year after a series of high-profile security lapses.

Recent lapses include allowing a knife-carrying man to jump a fence and run into the White House in September. / GETTY IMAGES

The deputy director of the U.S. Secret Service is leaving his post, the agency said on Monday.

A.T. Smith has accepted another position within the Department of Homeland Security effective Tuesday, the Secret Service said in a statement.

Smith has served as deputy director since April 2012 and was responsible for daily operations, including 6,500 employees, at the agency charged with protecting the president, it said.

"Deputy Director Smith has had an exceptional law enforcement career spanning nearly 29 years within the United States Secret Service. His contributions to the agency have been invaluable," said Secret Service Acting Director Joseph P. Clancy.

In January, the Secret Service forced aside four senior officials while another has opted to retire.

The departures represent a house-cleaning within top management. The Washington Post reported last month that some members of Congress had expressed concern to the administration about Smith's continued presence in the top leadership.

An independent review of the agency released in December cited a leadership crisis at the agency and recommended an outsider be brought in to challenge an insular culture. REUTERS

Have you been noticing Memory Problems?

Many adults over age 65 experience memory issues. If you are able to continue your day-to-day life and usual activities, you may still feel that your memory has "slipped." Mild memory loss can include:

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France. Gunmen fire on Marseille police as PM Valls visits city

Gunmen fired on a police car in Marseille Monday in what officials said was a drug-related incident, hours before a visit by French Prime Minister Manuel Valls to hail a drop in crime in France's second city.

Residents of the La Castellane neighborhood were told to stay indoors. A creche was evacuated as troops from the GIPN special forces unit were sent into the sealed-off estate.

Police Chief Pierre-Marie Bourniquel confirmed it was his vehicle that had been targeted. He had gone to the scene after residents reported they had seen armed men in the area. Bullets were embedded in a bank above his car, he said. REUTERS

Quoted

"There were shots fired in the direction of a police vehicle coming from hooded individuals armed with Kalashnikovs."

Local police chief Pierre-Marie Bourniquel

French police officers take up positions at a housing estate in the French city of Marseille. / GETTY IMAGES

Activists against Cosby remain vigilant after Boston cancellation

Cancellations. Another accuser came forward with allegations of sexual assault against Cosby.

Francesca Contreras reads from a list of venues that canceled Bill Cosby's shows in front of Boston's Wilbur Theatre, where Bill Cosby was scheduled to perform. / GETTY IMAGES

Though Bill Cosby canceled two Sunday night shows at Boston's Wilbur Theatre by blaming the snowstorm, local activists feel differently.

"I think [the cancellation] might have been due to the pressure of the media and the interviews we've been having," said activist Brandie Alexander, one of the forces behind an organized push protesting Cosby's Feb. 8 shows. "I consider this a success."

Actress Helen Gumpel, formerly known as Helen Selby, said Sunday that Cosby made sexual advances and lewd gestures toward her in 1988, while she was on the set of the show.

In a statement he made to his fans, Cosby made no mention of the protests or accusation, saying, "No need to worry, I will be back soon to raise the roof with laughter. I thank you, the theatre staff, the event organizers and the Boston community for your love and support."

However, Alexander said Cosby can expect local protesters to turn out in full force if he books another gig in Massachusetts.

"We're going to keep it up, and if he does decide to come back to Boston we will protest. We will have even more time to organize," she said. MORGAN ROUSSEAU

Protest

35

About 35 people turned out with signs and banners.

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TIMOTHYSYKES.COM
Timothy Sykes is a millionaire stock trader and entrepreneur.

3 Stock sectors to watch in 2015

Not all stocks and industries are created equal, and with the world changing faster than ever, you must keep on top of what's hot. Below are three industries that are changing the world now:

Industry No. 1: Smartphones

Any company that makes useful software and popular applications for smartphones is a good bet, especially companies that can entice millions of users quickly or optimize a smartphone's performance with faster loading. When looking to buy companies in this space, don't worry so much about them having great revenues or profits right now; these are developmental times so the key is creating great products and popularity early on in this emerging space.

Industry No. 2: Biotechnology

New drugs being created to make us live longer and better will only continue to expand in the coming years as everyone looks for the fountain of youth to cure all sorts of ailments. While there's no one magic drug or medical treatment to cure everything, science and technology are evolving at an incredible pace, and the stocks of those companies that create the most in-demand medicines will continue to soar. The only downside is that this industry is full of guesswork and most startups fail to achieve their goals. Be extra careful when researching this sector and understand any investment here is truly a long shot.

The Super Bowl and Grammys were amazing. Bravo!

Twitter reported earnings with slowing growth but made investors excited by highlighting plans to monetize the site. That will make it a worse user experience.

Industry No. 3: Big Data

Even though we use social media for fun, the companies behind all these platforms are collecting data on us and selling that data to advertisers like never before. Next time you leave a comment on a funny cat video, don't be surprised to see pet food companies advertising to you. It's scary what kind of information we willingly put out there and big data companies are more than happy to categorize it all. In the future, these companies will be laughing all the way to the bank. They don't have to work as hard as was once believed to slice and dice the American public into various demographics, getting to know specific details while selling this information for healthy profits. This industry is just beginning, but I expect big things.

For exclusive commentary, visit Metro.us/blogs.

What Tim Sykes is into this week...

1 *CNN ran a fascinating profile on Taylor Swift's emergence as a superstar. Very interesting!*

2 *Oil is coming back thankfully; if it kept dropping, it could harm our economy.*

3 *The U.S. men's soccer team beat Panama for their first win of 2015, goal!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!*

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College isn't a non-stop party for these students

First-year college students actually spend less time socializing than in years past. / ISTOCK

Priorities. A new look at what freshmen value.

Turns out college freshmen these days are a serious lot. A recent survey found that first-year students are spending a record low amount of time partying and socializing compared to previous generations and that many are highly focused on their education and planning for graduate studies.

This isn't 'Animal House'

The survey produced by the University of California, Los Angeles, which detailed students' high school habits and their initial perspectives and experiences at college, also found the lowest self-reported rates of alcohol and cigarette use in 30 years among first-year students at four-year colleges and universities.

The 49th annual "American Freshman" study revealed that first-year college students, who grew up during an economic downturn, are working toward financial and educational success.

All work, no play?

At the same time, students' self-reported measure of emotional health dropped to 50.7 percent, the lowest recorded.

"It signals that students are taking their academics much more seriously in high school, and subsequently not providing a social outlet to release stress," says Kevin Eagan, director of UCLA's cooperative institutional research program.

Last year, 18 percent of students surveyed reported spending at least 16 hours a week socializing, and more than 41 percent said they did not party at all.

That equated to a record low amount of time devoted to socializing and partying. Over the last 27 years, the share of students who partied for six hours or more per week plummeted to under nine percent. REUTERS

Beyond graduation

A focus on the future

What are freshmen doing with time not spent at parties? Studying.

Nearly 50 percent of freshmen reported spending six hours or more per week studying in high school, compared to about 34 percent a decade ago. They also spent more time on social media.

In another sign that they are sober about their future, the share of freshmen planning to earn a master's degree was nearly 44 percent in 2014, compared to 28 percent in 1974.

Eagan said it is probably because of their perception that the labor market is competitive, he said.

The survey was based on responses from more than 153,000 students.

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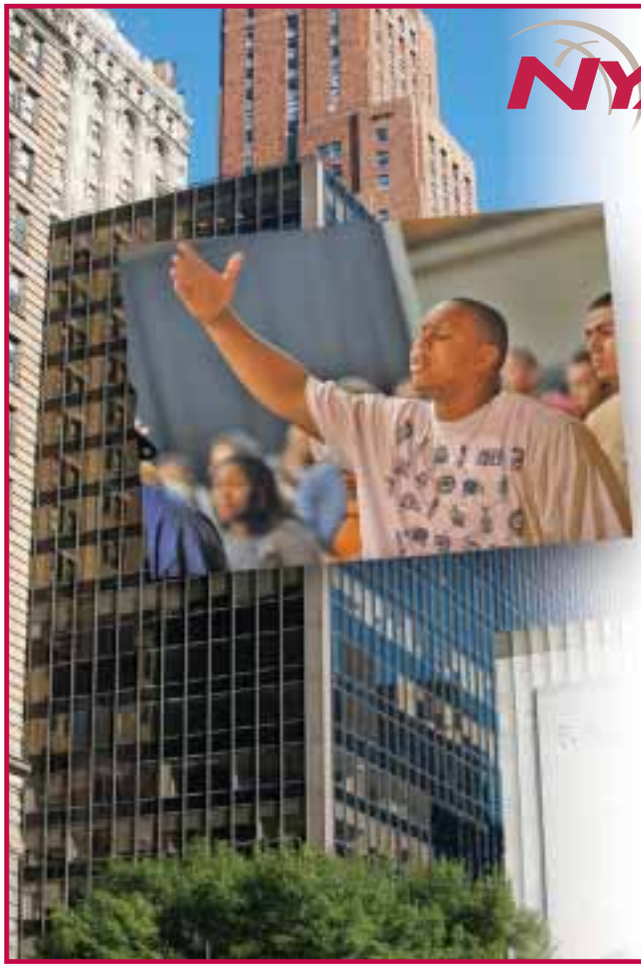

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Touro GST Focus: Jobs, Jobs, Jobs

Touro Graduate School of Technology's recent Executive Forum exemplifies the school's career-driven approach to helping students find jobs.

"The # 1 priority of Touro College's Graduate School of Technology's faculty and administration is furthering each student's career. We provide each student with an excellent industry-driven academic foundation in the technology area of his/her choice, and also expend every effort in preparing each student for his/her first or next job in the business world, " says Robert Grosberg, Director of Career Services.

It was a packed house, but this year's Career Night discussion went beyond the confines of a simple presentaiton. Students learned how to climb the ladder of success from an experienced panel of experts which included Abe Cytryn of Magtzer, Shay David of Kaltura, Hal Friedlander of the New York City Department of Education, Evelyn Fuhrer of PromontoryFinancial Group and Phil Teplitzky of HPSquared, LLC.

The CIOs also offered advice on breaking into today's technology industry, including the importance of the kind of soft skills taught at GST.

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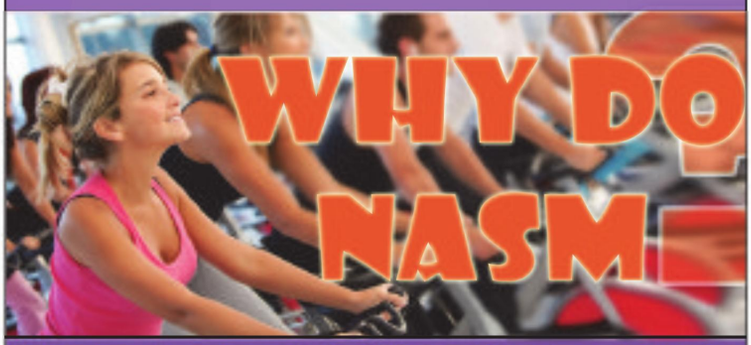

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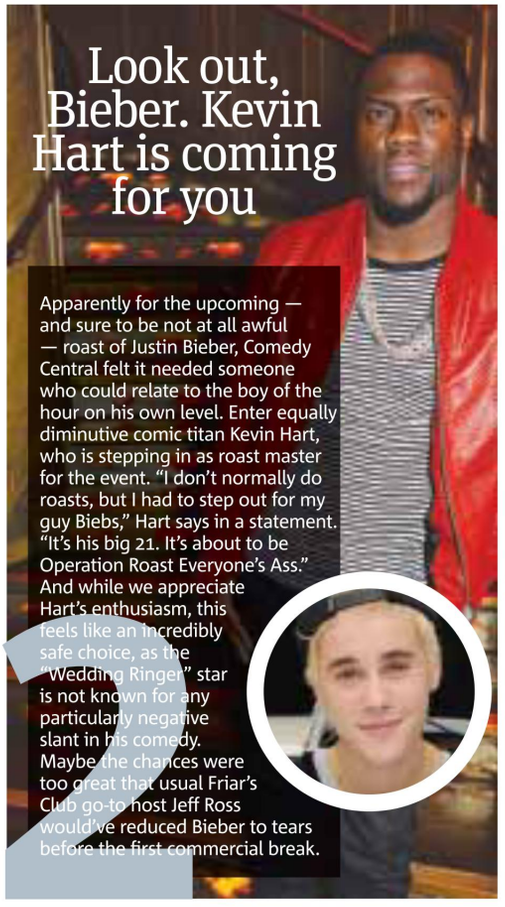
Vital Careers Start Here!

1 The second weddings are always the best

Johnny Depp and Amber Heard are, like, extra married now. After blind-siding gossip-mongers last week with a surprise knot-tying in L.A., the happy couple headed down to the Bahamas as planned for a lavish, intimate ceremony on Depp's own island, Little Hall's Pond Cay. Photos over the weekend showed a lovely canopy set up on one of the island's several beaches, along with 24 chairs. "Amber did her own hair and makeup, and Johnny was as laid back as usual. But there has been a genuine glow about them since Wednesday, when they officially became man and wife," a source tells the Sunday Express. "They wanted to do it all again on the beach and ... [celebrate] with friends because they love the island and want it to be a continuing part of their lives together."

Depp's island has several beaches, so it's unclear which one hosted the blessed event, but I'm going to go out on a limb and guess it wasn't the one he previously named for ex-partner Vanessa Paradis. That would just be awkward.

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES



2 Look out, Bieber. Kevin Hart is coming for you

Apparently for the upcoming — and sure to be not at all awful — roast of Justin Bieber, Comedy Central felt it needed someone who could relate to the boy of the hour on his own level. Enter equally diminutive comic titan Kevin Hart, who is stepping in as roast master for the event. "I don't normally do roasts, but I had to step out for my guy Biebs," Hart says in a statement. "It's his big 21. It's about to be Operation Roast Everyone's Ass." And while we appreciate Hart's enthusiasm, this feels like an incredibly safe choice, as the "Wedding Ringer" star is not known for any particularly negative slant in his comedy. Maybe the chances were too great that usual Friar's Club go-to host Jeff Ross would've reduced Bieber to tears before the first commercial break.

Daily video

Fifty Shades of Lego

Sometimes all the pop culture noise and nonsense just gets blended up together into one weird, colorful stew. And sometimes — rarely — that stew is delicious. Take, for instance, this adorably weird trailer remake for "Fifty Shades of Grey," done entirely with Lego figurines and pieces. What could just be an entertaining game of Internet word association turns out to be pretty entertaining. And who knew Lego minifigs had abs?

ANTONIO TOSCANO / YOUTUBE

THE WORD

Ned Ehrbar takes on the world of gossip.

NED EHRBAR
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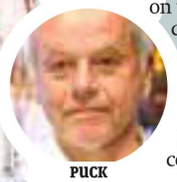
? Jennifer Lawrence, soup aficionada

Jennifer Lawrence is now getting unsolicited help in her campaign to be the most down-to-earth star on the planet. While celebrity chef Wolfgang Puck was giving a preview of his annual post-Oscars Governors Ball menu, he couldn't help offering up a side of a charming J.Law anecdote. "She didn't know who I was," Puck remembers of the 2013 gala, after Lawrence won her Best Actress trophy. "Her publicist said, 'That's Wolfgang Puck.' She says, 'Oh my God, I eat his canned soup all the time!' I thought that was very funny." And charming!



PUCK

3 'Lego Movie' directors still sore at Academy

Crowd-pleaser "The Lego Movie" took home a BAFTA this weekend for Best Animated Film, but that apparently doesn't quite wash away the slight of being passed over for an Oscar nomination. While accepting their award in London, co-directors Phil Lord and Chris Miller didn't let the opportunity pass to make a dig at the Hollywood elite who left them out of the big show. "You are our favorite Academy by far," Lord said from the BAFTA stage. "You guys win the award for best Academy. This is the end of the awards road for us, so we can say whatever we want. There's no one left to impress."

BAFTA WINNERS, BUT NOT OSCAR NOMINEES, PHIL LORD AND CHRISTOPHER MILLER.

GETTY IMAGES

Everything is not awesome. / COURTESY OF WARNER BROS. PICTURES

2 CULTURE

Twitter feed

Today, Jaden Smith is pretty confident, Roseanne Barr calls them like she sees them, Forest Whitaker is keeping positive, Billy Eichner is right there with him and Ricky Gervais is full of parables.

@officialjaden: People Tell Me I'm An Old Soul, But I Will Be Young Forever.

@therealroseanne: beck looks like dana carvey

@ForestWhitaker: I do not believe the darkness of war can triumph over a collective will for peace and light! #SouthSudan

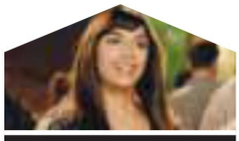
@billyeichner: I consider every one of Beyonce's Loreal ads to be a plea for peace and justice tbh

@rickygervais: Give a man a fish and he'll ask you why the f--- you're going round trying to give fish away. It's weird. Don't do it.

Drinking with a true American

Interview. Jake Johnson has some bad news for serious fans of "New Girl"'s trademark drinking game.

Midway through its fourth season, "New Girl" is still finding new situations to throw its oddball loft residents into. This season has seen the characters exploring new careers. We met up with Jake Johnson (Nick) at a party and chatted about what's ahead for the show, and naturally, our favorite drinking game came up (it was a party, after all).



Visit **Metro.us** to learn about the surprising romance on deck for Nick.

Will we see more True American this year?
Absolutely. I think we'll see True American for as long as the show goes.

Are you an expert on the game at this point?
Here's the reality, and it's disappointing for fans who want it to be something it's not. I say this as an expert, because I've been in every True American scene, and I was there when it started: There are no rules.

You guys just make it up?
The guy who wrote the first one, Luvh Rakhe, came to set and said, "We haven't figured this one out. It's some sort of a drinking game." We all started saying things that we used to do in drinking games.

So you just throw in anything you can think of?
It's like the chop suey of drinking games. Anything you got, throw it in. If you're playing quarters and want to turn it into True American, you can.

Well, there's a president on the coin.
That's right. That's what it is. You have to say a president if you hit it, then you point to who drinks and that's your vice president. If they don't know the vice president of the president you named, they have to take two drinks.

Anything you can tease about what's coming up on the show?
Justin Long is coming back; Josh Gad is coming back. So we got some good stuff coming up. But I think the silent secret MVP of the show is Hannah Simone.

Catch "New Girl" Tuesdays at 9 p.m. on Fox. NICOLE WILDER-SHATTUCK, FOX

She always has the funniest reactions.
Face acting. I tease her about it. Because there's a lot of scenes where we're all there and Hannah doesn't have any lines, so I'll go, wonderful face acting! We've done about 90 episodes. We've all had time to shine. I think it's time for Cece to shine.

LISA WEIDENFELD
@LisaWeidenfeld
lisa.weidenfeld@metro.us

/ GETTY IMAGES

Endgames

A little romance

We just saw Nick get dumped. What's coming up for him?
Nick's going to be single a bit. I'd like to see Nick date a little bit. I'd like to see him find somebody. I just texted [showrunner] Liz Meriwether, "Maybe it's time Nick gets in a relationship." Hopefully she'll listen. I'd like to date someone who's a really good actor and do a bunch of stories with them.

No more Nick/Jess?
I think Nick and Jess should potentially end up together, but I don't think they should do it during "New Girl."

Really?
I think the show has got too strong of an ensemble for it to turn into a relationship show. I think it messes with the dynamics in a less entertaining way, personally. But I like Nick and Jess together. I just think they should find each other when Fox tells us this is our last season.

TV watch list

COMEDY

'The Mindy Project'

After last week's big reveal, Mindy tries to find a way to tell Danny he's about to be a dad, but her plans get derailed when his father shows up. **9:30 P.M., FOX**

DRAMA

'NCIS: New Orleans'

After a security staffer for the Vice Chief of Naval Operations is killed, the team must determine whether the staffer was the real target or whether the vice chief was. **9 P.M., CBS**

The "NCIS" team looks kind of confused about what they're doing at this crime scene. / SKIP BOLEN, CBS

REALITY

'Face Off'

The contestants have to use one sense to interpret another, as they'll be creating designs based on sound effects. We're hoping they get some nice action sequence sounds. **9 P.M., SYFY**

TALK SHOW

'The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon'

Watch Dakota Johnson try to think of something not awkward to say about starring in "50 Shades of Grey." **11:35 P.M., NBC LW**

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Katherine Heiny's book "Single, Carefree, Mellow" includes 11 short stories." / LEILA BARBARO

Katherine Heiny's 'carefree, mellow' writing journey

New release. The writer proves short fiction stories are still relevant.

The very first short story Katherine Heiny ever published was in The New Yorker. Her first book, "Single, Carefree, Mellow" has Lena Dunham — among others — raving. We called Heiny up to get inside the brain of this wildly talented fiction writer.

The short stories in your book all take ordinary experiences, like a children's birthday party, and turn them into something exciting.

Do you have a habit of creating stories about people in real life?
Oh, all the time. Ordinary things are really interesting to me. If I'm watching a reality show, and people are fighting about who didn't get invited to a party, that's fantastic. I think if you pay close attention to everyday things, they are often funny.

How does your writing process work?
When I start writing, I get the first line of the story and it always stays in, but it doesn't always stay as the first line. But there's always one line that sticks with me, and the rest of the story will come over a few days. It takes me a month or more to write a short story. … I don't write chronologically; I write little scenes and then I put them together.

Most of your stories are about affairs. What makes you drawn to writing about forbidden love?
My husband is a former MI6 agent, and he was undercover for most of our relationship. I couldn't tell people what he really did. This whole secret life thing was just part of our lives, so that's part of it. The other part is that I'll start writing about something other than the affair, and then I'll add it in to round out the story.

EMILY LAURENCE
@EmLaurence
emily.laurence@metro.us

Dream come true

So many writers dream of being published in The New Yorker. How did that come about for you?
I wrote this story while I was in graduate school and sent it all over the place. I got 31 rejection letters. Then a friend of mine said, "What did The New Yorker say?" I told her I didn't send it there. She said, "Katherine, you're supposed to send it there first." So I mailed it off on a Thursday afternoon, and they called Friday morning to accept it. I didn't even know the mail worked that fast. They took it and published it, not changing one thing. ... It's like an urban legend or something.

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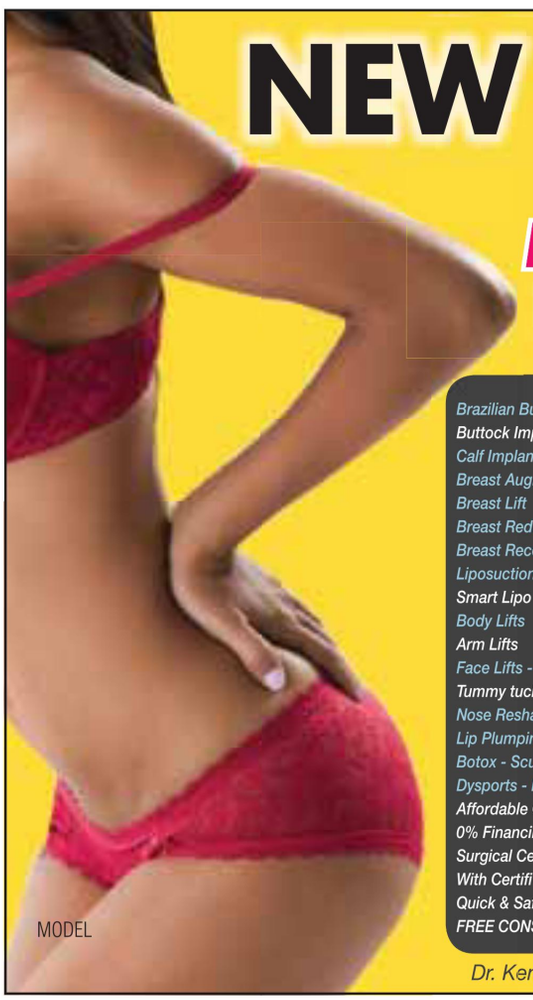

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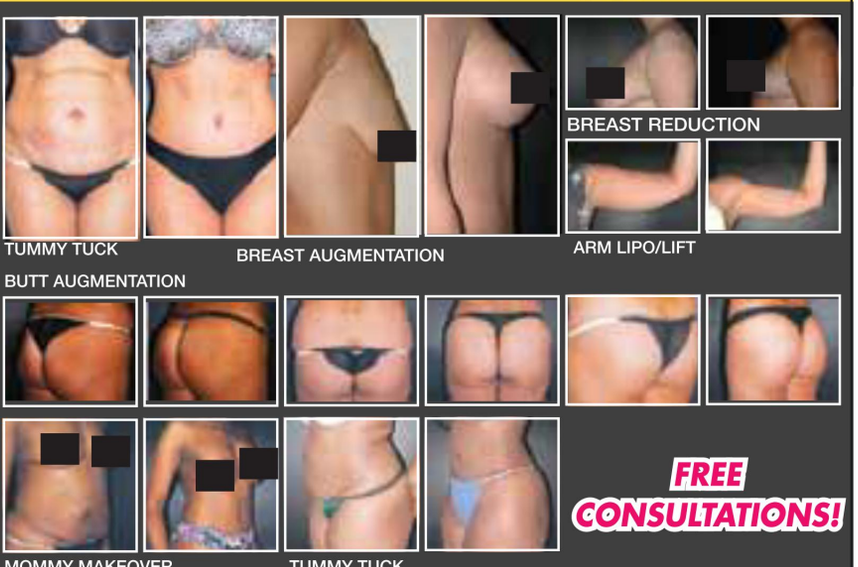

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Dr. Kenneth R. Francis - Board Certified Plastic Surgeon: Featured in : "Allure, Glamour, and Inside Edition"

Ryan Reynolds plays a nice murderer

In "The Voices," Ryan Reynolds portrays a disturbed man who thinks he can talk to his dog and cat. / LIONSGATE

Interview. The actor didn't want his animal-conversing psycho in "The Voices" to be just a psycho.

If you're asking, Ryan Reynolds is a dog person. "But I'm only a dog person because they can be controlled," he tells us. "Cats hate me." That's a light way to start talking about his new film, "The Voices," in which he plays Jerry, a disturbed Midwesterner who's off his meds and, as such, talks with his dog and his cat (both voiced by him). Soon enough, and purely by accident, he's racked up a body count.

You had to chase this one down and talk with director Marjane Satrapi ("Persepolis") about casting you. How did you convince her?
I knew there were two other actors who had their hands up for it, who I would argue are much more critically acclaimed than I am. So I really had to get my s— together. I met with Marjane and gave her my take on the guy. One of the things I said was: If there's even one look of menace on Jerry's face, we lose the audience. She seemed to really latch onto that idea, that we have to trust him, we have to follow him and ostensibly care for him. Somehow she, I don't know, found me creepy enough to do the role.

RYAN REYNOLDS
GETTY IMAGES

There's something shockingly sweet-natured about the film. For one thing, the actual gore tends to be offscreen or obscured in the shots.
That's funny — some people find it gory. I think it's offset by Jerry's innocence and arrested development. He was traumatized at 10 or 11 years old, and he's still 10 or 11 years old when we meet him. It's also offset by the fact that there's this asexuality to him. That's important, especially since we're dealing with women in this movie. If there was a sexual component, the movie would be wholly unpleasant in every way, shape or form, and it would never see the light of day. He's the nicest serial killer you'll ever meet.

It's hard to classify how you portray Jerry: The film is semi-realistic, but at the same time, there's a heightened comedic quality to it.
But you can't think of it like that on set. I was trying to create someone who is three-dimensional and not this menacing, scary psychopath, because that's not what he is at all. For me, it just brings out those ideas about heroes and villains. They're given such a raw deal, villains, in movies, because they're always twisting some kind of mustache, figuratively. No villain on earth does that. They don't have a compulsion for evil; what they have is an opposing conviction that you don't agree with. That's interesting to me. I wanted to bring as much empathy to Jerry as possible. But he's a villain, to some degree. He's the guy you read about in the news and say, "Glad I didn't run into that freak." At the same time, we read those things in the news, and there's a narrative we fill in our own minds. We get to show who that guy is.

Bonus question

Like crazy

Like in "Buried," you spend a lot of the film acting by yourself, though here you're talking to animals.
The hardest part of that was on set, the crew thought I was nuts. I would do a technical rehearsal for the crew and I would act the dog and cat. But then when we shot it, I would only hear the dog and cat lines in my mind, and I would react to it. So if you walked on set for the first time, you would see a guy talking to himself in the middle of a living room and then yelling at things that aren't there. It was off-putting for some.

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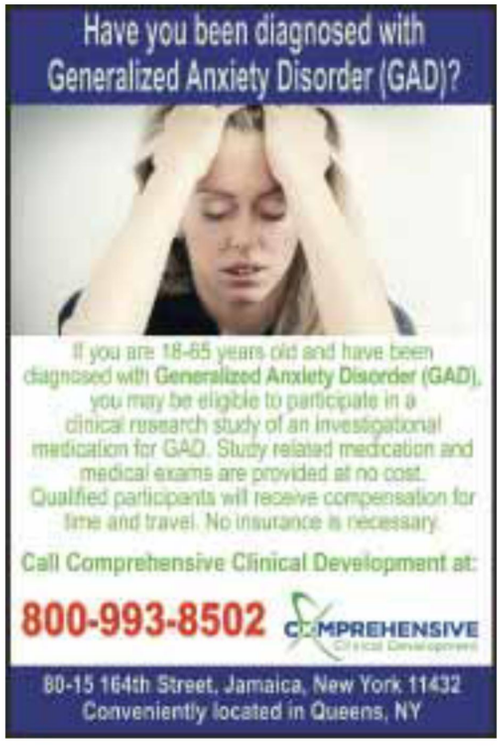
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Dance the night away

Interview. Dancer Justin Peck and filmmaker Jody Lee Lipes talk about the doc "Ballet 422."

Justin Peck is the weirdly calm center of "Ballet 422," a documentary now in theaters that shows Peck, a corps member of the New York City Ballet, choreographing a new dance for the prestigious institution. Directed by Jody Lee Lipes — a skilled cinematographer who shot "Martha Marcy May Marlene" and Lena Dunham's "Tiny Furniture" — the film doesn't pry into Peck's life, doesn't have narration or interviews and features none of the wounded egos common to ballet cinema.

Was Peck reluctant to let filmmakers follow him around when he was really busy?: "I didn't feel nervous about it, because at the time it wasn't brought to me as this huge feature-length documentary," Peck admits. "It was more like, 'This filmmaker wants to come in and shoot some of the process of you making the ballet.'" He says Lipes and crew were low-key and incognito as they filmed him. In fact, he was surprised when they wound up with a 70-minute final product. "I was like, 'How did you do that? How did that happen?'"

What it isn't: Lipes is proud the film is low-key and drama-free. "I don't think it's a film about conflict," Lipes says. "It's a process film. It's not about fighting. It's problem, decision, problem, decision, problem, decision. It is what it is, at least for this particular guy and this particular dance in this particular company."

How Peck and his colleagues have reacted to the film: "I think it's an honest depiction of the environment and also what it takes to make a ballet from start to finish," Peck says of a film that features no ego or in-fighting. "If it was twisted into some tall tale that wasn't at all what happened, I think people would have been pissed off."

MATT PRIGGE
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JUSTIN PECK AND JODY LEE LIPES
WIREIMAGE

Real to reel

Documentary as more than mere journalism

Lipes cites as a major influence Frederick Wiseman, the legendary documentarian of classics like "High School" and last year's "National Gallery." Like him, Lipes sees non-fiction filmmaking as about more than reporting facts. "I think documentaries can be used as a tool to explore or challenge social issues. And that's great. But I think documentary films get confused with what they're about. People think a good documentary is about a good topic. I think a good documentary is about a good topic and it's made well," Lipes explains. "People think there's more room for a documentary filmmaker to be sloppy; it's OK because it's a documentary. I don't think that's OK."

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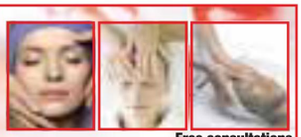

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Valentine's Day. Pair your chocolates with something you'll both enjoy.

The Valentine's Day routine could use a little and variety. This year, instead of grabbing a bottle of red wine, pair your sweet treats with something you can both get excited about: whisky.

"You should know this stuff," Anthony Bourdain said of the amber spirit for "Whiskey Distilled" by Heather Greene, the NYC-based spirits sommelier who led our recent tasting of two of Scotland's finest paired with some unique bites from Belgian chocolatier Neuhaus.

While whisky straight up or on the rocks might have been too in-your-face, chocolate can bring out its complexities — and even change the way it tastes entirely. "You're gonna see not only the whiskey changes but your relationship to the chocolate will change, too," says Greene.

There are three tasting notes at play, tweaking the tastes of both the whisky and chocolate:

1 **Contrasting:** Flavors that are very different but work together.
2 **Complementary:** Flavors that meld seamlessly, like honey and lavender.
3 **Echoed:** Flavors present in the whisky and chocolate, which can bring out new aspects of both.

Besides taste, with whisky you're also looking for texture: "How does it feel in your mouth? How does the finish feel all down your throat?"

There's no "right" way to do the tasting, so switch up trying the whisky or chocolate first. Like wine, you nose whisky, too. Hold the ship in your mouth and let it coat your tongue to get the full flavor. The cask — or casks — in which it's aged grants 75 percent of the flavor, and while wine continues to age in the bottle, whisky stops aging out of the cask.

"In America, we talk a lot about bourbons and ryes," which by law must be made in virgin oak casks and tend to be sweeter, Greene explains. "You could do an entire version of this with American whiskeys, and it would be an entirely different experience."

EVA KIS
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Tasting notes

Bowmore Darkest 15 Years

Matured in bourbon and sherry casks, the 15 exemplifies the distinctly peaty variety of whisky. Made on an island, Islay, it has a long finish of earth (the whisky is aged below sea level) and mineral saltiness of the ocean.

"Islay is known for creating what people think of as scotch: big smoke, peat, earthy, briny, oyster, alabaster, salt," says Greene. "You're gonna be really surprised how beautifully smoke in the whisky, with that nuttiness and spice, works with the chocolate."

Divine: This caramel with hazelnut bits coaxes out the whisky's dark chocolate and toffee notes.

Sesame Carre: Let this one melt in your mouth — the toasted seeds amplify the whisky's forward flavor.

1857: The warm spiciness of speculoos (cookie butter) in the center of this praline echoes the mellowness of Bowmore's darkest scotch.

Tasting notes

Auchentoshan Three Wood

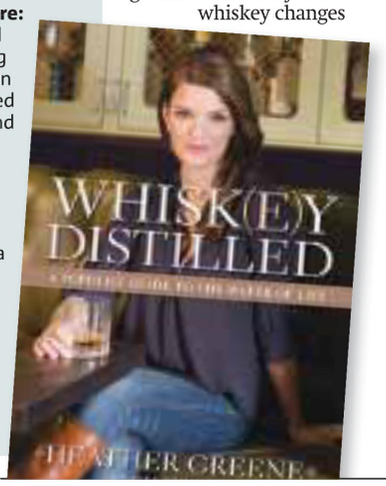
This single malt from the Scottish lowlands was aged in three different casks: American bourbon, Spanish oloroso sherry and finally Pedro Ximenez sherry. "Triple-distilled whiskey is very common in Ireland, but there's only one in Scotland," says Greene.

What Auchentoshan lacks in peat and smoke, it makes up for with a spicy finish. There are also echo flavors of butterscotch and caramel that work with the chocolates.

Galerie: Fleur de sel in this chocolate cancels out any bitterness in the whisky, making it even more sweet and syrupy.

70% Cocoa Carre: A sophisticated bite contrasting the bitterness in both the roasted cocoa beans and whisky.

Louise: This subtle praline made with cocoa from Java will coat your mouth as it melts, which brings out the whisky's subtler sweet notes as you sip.



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Parenting hacks. Food Network blogger Dana Angelo White shares two recipes your kids will love.

Breakfast recipes your kids won't suspect are healthy

Science has no shortage of studies proving the lifelong effects of feeding your children healthy food. Not only does it help them develop healthy eating habits that last into adulthood, a 2013 behavioral study found that unhealthy diets can lead to behavior problems in kids.

If you think feeding your kids healthy meals is a lofty ideal because you don't have time and they won't like it anyway, Food Network nutrition expert Dana Angelo White wants to prove you wrong. Her new book, "First Bites," is full of recipes for babies and toddlers that busy parents can whip up in no time. Her healthy spins on kid favorites like mac and cheese, pizza and chicken nuggets are full of "superfoods" to make a meal both unprocessed and full of nutrients. Here, we share two yummy kid-approved breakfast recipes from the book.

EMILY LAURENCE
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Even picky eaters will like the recipes in "First Bites." / ISTOCK

Recipe

Dressed-Up Frozen Waffles with Pears and Honey

You don't always have to make breakfast from scratch. On super busy mornings, pop a whole grain waffle in the toaster. Make it special and boost the fiber with a one-minute sauce.

Ingredients:
- 1 frozen whole grain waffle, toasted
- 1 pear, peeled and chopped
- 1 teaspoon honey

Directions:
While waffle is toasting, prepare the sauce. Place chopped pear and honey in a small bowl. Microwave on high for one minute, until pear is tender. Stir and allow to cool for five minutes. Pour sauce over toasted waffle or on the side for dipping.

PLUS

Recipe

Mango-Banana Almond Milk Smoothie

This creamy, dairy-free smoothie is full of fresh, fruity flavor. The potassium, vitamin B6 and other nutrients in the banana and mango make this a healthier and tastier treat than bottled or smoothie-shop drinks.

Ingredients:
- 8 ounces vanilla almond milk, unsweetened
- 1 small banana, sliced
- 1 cup frozen or fresh mango

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Recipes. Surprise your littlest valentine with one of these easy-to-make sweet treats.

Valentine's Day treats for kids

It's like a Ding Dong, only better. / ALL PHOTOS PROVIDED

For you, Valentine's Day may conjure up promises of flowers, chocolates and, if you're lucky, a no-kids night out with your spouse. But it's a day kids get excited about, too — remember when you were a kid, how fun it was handing out valentines to everyone in your class? Or in middle school, sending your crush a carnation or rose? Celebrate the love you have for your kids with one of these recipes from two Pinterest favorites:

Cream-Filled Chocolate Heart-Shaped Cakes

Modified from Worth Pinning blogger Carrie Geddes

Ingredients:
For cake:
- Cake mix
- 1 cup water
- ⅓ cup vegetable oil
- 3 large eggs

For frosting and chocolate coating:
- ½ cup milk
- 2 tsp. flour
- ½ cup vegetable shortening
- ½ cup sugar
- ½ tsp. vanilla
- ½ cup powdered sugar
- ¼ cup mini chocolate chips

Directions:
Start with your favorite cake mix (Geddes uses Duncan Hines). Preheat oven to 350 degrees for metal or glass cupcake baking pans or 325 degrees for dark or coated cupcake baking pans. Grease sides and bottom of the baking cups with oil spray. Blend cake mix, water, oil and eggs in a large bowl. Pour batter into cupcake pan. Overfill the molds on purpose so the cake bakes over the tops so you can cut the tops flat with a serrated knife. Bake for 20 minutes. Let cool for 15 minutes.

For the frosting, whisk 1/2 cup milk and two teaspoons flour in a small saucepan over medium heat. The milk and flour will make a pasty gravy. Remove from the heat and allow to cool at room temperature. Cream 1/2 cup shortening and 1/2 cup sugar. Add the pasty gravy stuff and beat for five minutes. Add 1/2 teaspoon vanilla and 1/2 cup powdered sugar. Continue beating until fluffy.

Use a knife to carefully core each cupcake. Fill the centers with the cream. Melt 1/4 cup mini chocolate chips for the chocolate icing and dunk the bottom of each cupcake into it. Then thickly coat the tops of the cupcakes with the melted chocolate. Let the hearts set. Pipe the vanilla frosting to write "love" on top.

EMILY LAURENCE
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Recipe

Sweetheart Cupcakes

Modified from Glorious Treats blogger Glory Albin

First, bake a batch of chocolate cupcakes using your favorite recipe or box mix. (There's a good one at glorioustreats.com.) Fill the liners to 1/2 inch below the top of the liner. While the cupcakes are baking, prepare the frosting by following the below recipe:

Ingredients:
- 1 cup (2 sticks) butter
- ¼ tsp. salt (if using unsalted butter)
- 4 cups powdered sugar
- 1 tsp. vanilla extract
- 2-3 tbsp. heavy cream, half and half or milk
- Pink food coloring

Directions:
Using an electric mixer, beat butter until it's completely smooth. Add salt, if needed. One cup at a time, add two cups of powdered sugar, beating after each addition. Add vanilla and beat to combine. Add the remaining two cups of powdered sugar, one at a time. Add an additional one to two teaspoons cream and pink food coloring. Continue to beat for another minute or so. The frosting should now be smooth and fluffy.

For the cutout cupcake assembly, use a serrated knife to cut off the top of the cupcake, using the top of the cupcake liner as a guide. Use a small heart cookie cutter to cut out a heart shape from the cupcake dome. Spread frosting onto the cupcake base, in a mounded shape. If desired, sprinkle the cupcake dome with powdered sugar. Place top back on cupcake and press down a bit.

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Horoscope

Aquarius | Jan. 21-Feb. 18 An unsettled financial matter should be taken care of swiftly. Don't get annoyed with someone suggesting you need help.

Pisces | Feb. 19-March 20 A partnership is in the stars. Networking will lead to an interesting conversation. Good fortune will enable you to make the most of a financial contract.

Aries | March 21-April 20 Through an agency or institution, you will find a worthwhile project or connection that offers excitement and adventure.

Taurus | April 21-May 21 Going the extra mile will result in added freedom. Explain your intentions and show off your skills if you want to get support.

Gemini | May 22-June 20 Don't let down your guard. Be aware that someone will try to ruin your reputation if you share your secrets. Proceed with caution.

Cancer | June 21-July 22 You can raise your earning potential if you apply for a better position or pick up additional skills. Keep asking questions until you have a better understanding.

Leo | July 23-Aug. 22 Making your home the backdrop for group meetings will be beneficial and will allow you to inject your personal ideas into the plan.

Virgo | Aug. 23-Sept. 22 Put your skills to work by organizing an event. If you listen to the complaints being made, you will come up with a way to improve the situation you face.

Libra | Sept. 23-Oct. 22 Excess spending will tax your budget. Put all of your efforts into getting ahead professionally. Devotion to duty will raise your profile.

Scorpio | Oct. 23-Nov. 21 A risk will bring unanticipated results. Don't give up on a project that you've been working on forever.

Sagittarius | Nov. 22-Dec. 21 You will not get the whole story unless you ask direct questions. Refuse to pay for someone else's mistake. Get the facts straight.

Capricorn | Dec. 22-Jan. 20 Your track record speaks volumes about you and your talents. You can achieve your goals by forming an alliance with someone from your past.

EUGENIA LAST

Sudoku: Easy and hard

							6	
7					1	9	2	
3			4	6	5			7
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9		5				7		4
		3	7		8			
4			1	9	2			8
	5	9	6					2
	7							

6			2	8		5		
			7	1		6	4	8
	8					9		
	6				2			
5			8		1			4
			3				6	
		3					2	
8	2	9		5	7			
		6		2	3			5

How to play
Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Letters to the editor

Net doesn't pay for itself

Re: 'FCC's Title II will ensure equality for us all' (Metro, Feb. 6-8) Senior undergraduate Danielle Lorentz wrote "with great concern" for the "future of [her] generation," particularly, their success as the "nation's newest members of the workforce." Indeed, upon graduating, Ms. Lorentz wants to "share [her] portfolio, contact potential clients and thrive as a freelance designer." Will her "portfolio" contain ultra-high definition (4K) videos that she wants to "share" by Internet? Probably. Then, is she willing to pay for the expensive boatload of bandwidth and expensive lightning-fast connection required to share them?

Still, what's really needed is not for the FCC to ensure "net neutrality," but the "next thing" for connecting to the Internet, which will be unimaginably fast with practically unlimited bandwidth. What form it will take is currently unknown, but to develop it and make its use widespread and affordable will take money, or "capital," and lots of it. Unfortunately, this capital is largely unavailable because it's misdirected by the federal government. But should the federal government greatly reduce its spending, chances for We the People to soon have the "next thing" for Internet connection will greatly increase. And when it comes, there will be no need for the FCC's Title II (or the FCC, for that matter), which I suppose Ms. Lorentz will find tragic.

ALTON YEE, VIA EMAIL

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Crossword

Across

1 Haystack
5 Good name for a cook?
8 Hitchhiker's need
12 Wing it (hyph.)
14 Campus figure
15 Keats' tributes
16 "Groovy!"
17 Gym iterations
18 Wire thicknesses
19 Ready to share
21 Dome
23 Snatch
24 Almost grads
25 "— the Force be with you!"
26 Interstate eyesore
30 News morsels
32 Oregon neighbor
33 Icy treats (2 wds.)
37 Fr. miss
38 Objectives
39 Texas town
40 Fuzzless peach
42 Paris subway
43 "Skyfall" singer
44 "Cool!" (hyph.)
45 TV brand
48 Switch positions
49 Karate level
50 Maria Conchita —
52 Basic skill
57 "Primal Fear" star
58 Cartel
60 Video companion
61 Absorbs, as costs
62 Ooze out
63 Scorpion defense
64 "Heck!"
65 Bonn single
66 Herbal soothers

Down

1 Gave a buzz
2 — fixe
3 Plaid wearers
4 Lightweight toy
5 Gazes at
6 Knock gently
7 Removes, as a cap
8 Frolic
9 "In the doghouse," e.g.
10 Perry's girl Friday
11 Term paper
13 It's north of Java
14 Trounce
20 Trireme mover
22 "Semper fi" grp.
24 Pocketed
26 Sketch
27 Groundless
28 Chalky mineral
29 Iota preceder
30 Foolish, plus
31 Farmer, in spring
33 Dirties
34 Pact letters
35 Neutral color
36 Chimney deposit
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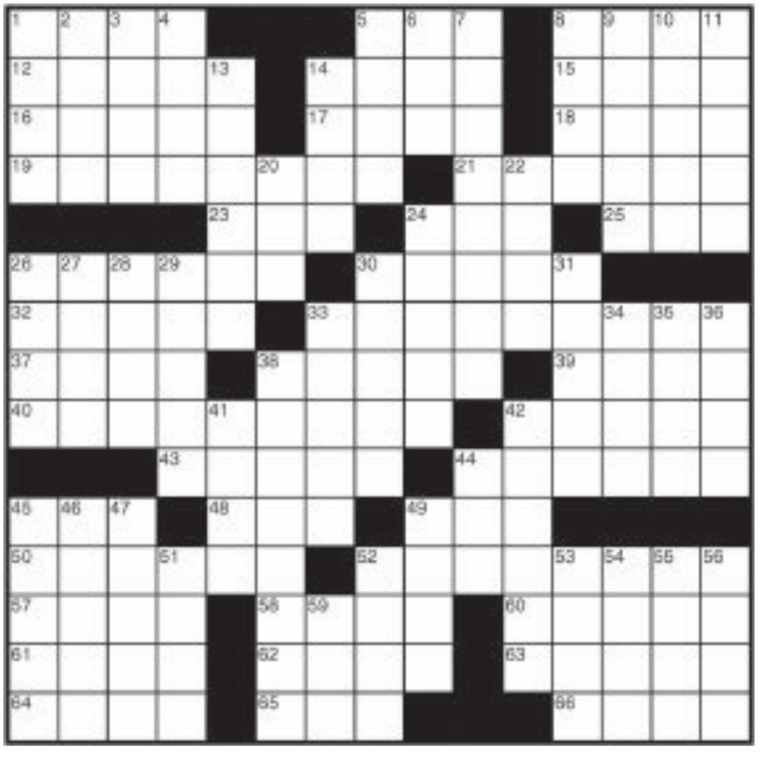
41 Hubbubs
42 Crazes
44 Short-lived obsession
45 Came unglued
46 Unmistakable
47 Ventricle neighbor
49 Evade
51 Wren's abode
52 Sorrel or bay
53 Mongrel
54 Singer — Adams
55 Tijuana tot
56 Duds
59 Aloha token

Yesterday's answer



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Friedgen out as Rutgers OC due to health reasons

NCAA. The former Maryland head coach spent just one season in Jersey.

It will be one and done for Ralph Friedgen at Rutgers as Metro New York has learned that the Scarlet Knights' offensive coordinator will be leaving coaching due to health reasons.

Friedgen, who in his one season "On the Banks" helped turned a stagnant Rutgers offense into a unit that surprised in their first season in the Big Ten, will not be returning for the 2015 season. A team source tells Metro that Friedgen's decision to forego a second season with the Scarlet Knights was based solely on his health.

Last year, Friedgen was responsible for the development of senior quarterback Gary Nova into one of the better QBs in the nation. Despite the steep learning curve in the Big Ten, Nova completed 57.2 percent of his passes for 2,851 yards with 22 touchdowns and 12 interceptions.

A former head coach at Maryland, where he won an ACC title and four bowl games, Friedgen did little in terms of traveling for recruiting at Rutgers and was limited mainly to game-planning. But he leaves behind a tremendous void in terms of his ability to manage the offense. One possibility for a replacement is Ben McDaniels, who has been with the school for one season as a receivers coach. He is young and rather untested but has been an offensive coordinator before when he was at Columbia. His brother is Josh McDaniels, the current OC for the New England Patriots.

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Ralph Friedgen is best known for his time at Maryland. / GETTY IMAGES

NHL power rankings | by Rich Slate

No. 1

Predators (35-12-6)

Carter Hutton did his job to hold the fort and now Pekka Rinne is back so the Predators are really in good shape. Nashville has the most points in the NHL and their goal-differential is +34. The Predators kick off a four-game homestand (Lightning, Jets, Devils, Sharks) on Tuesday, they are an NHL-best 21-3-1 at Bridgestone Arena.

No. 2

Ducks (34-13-7)

Every other divisional race in the NHL is competitive except for the Pacific which the Ducks have owned since day one this season. They are 12 points ahead of San Jose and have the second most points in the league. Ryan Getzlaf returned Sunday after missing two games with an injury.

No. 3

Lightning (34-16-5)

Few would have predicted it but the race in the Atlantic Division has turned out to be great. Tampa is only ahead of the hard-charging Canadiens and Red Wings by two points apiece. They picked up a huge 5-3 win over Anaheim Sunday that could have been a possible Stanley Cup Finals preview.

No. 4

Red Wings (31-12-9)

The Red Wings are playing as well as anyone in the NHL. They are 9-1-0 in their last 10 games and they have won their past three contests. Detroit has a tough week coming up as they go to Pittsburgh on Wednesday then they host Winnipeg on Saturday and Montreal on Monday.

No. 5

Blues (34-15-4)

The Blues are a really good team but as Sunday's 4-2 loss showed, the Blackhawks still have their number. You get the feeling that the rivals will meet again in the postseason and you have to like Chicago's chances there. St. Louis hosts Arizona on Tuesday before a trip to Tampa Bay on Thursday.

No. 6

Canadiens (34-15-3)

Speaking of teams that own their rivals, Montreal finished off a four-game season series sweep versus Boston Sunday with a 3-1 victory. The Canadiens outscored the Bruins 16-6 and Carey Price nearly put up his second shutout in a row against them. David Desharnais has six points in his last three games.

No. 7

B'Hawks (33-18-2)

Chicago is only 5-5-0 in their last 10 games but as usual, they tend to show up in the big games such as Sunday's 4-2 win at St. Louis. They have the best goal-differential (+40) in the NHL. They begin an eight-game homestand on Monday vs. Arizona so expect them to go up from here.

No. 8

Islanders (34-18-1)

Does anyone want to win the Metropolitan Division? The Islanders were running away with it for a while but now that they have struggled (5-5-0 in their last 10, including a loss to the Flyers Thursday), it has opened the door for Pittsburgh, Washington and the Rangers to make a move.

No. 9

Penguins (30-15-8)

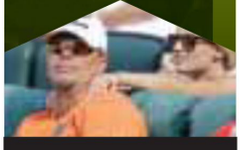
The Penguins ended their last road trip with an ugly 5-0 loss in Vancouver. Pittsburgh is 4-4-2 in their last 10 games so they are another club that is going through a tough stretch. A win versus Detroit would certainly give them a big boost moving forward.

3 SPORTS

NBA

Allen to decide soon

The "will he?" or "won't he?" surrounding 10-time NBA All-Star Ray Allen is about to come to an end. The 39-year-old shooting guard is still a free agent after playing last season with the Miami Heat, but ESPN reported Monday that Allen will make a decision on whether or not to return for a 19th NBA season shortly after this weekend's All-Star festivities in New York. According to the ESPN report, the Wizards, Cavaliers, Warriors, Spurs, Heat, Clippers and Hawks are all interested in acquiring the NBA's all-time leader in 3-point field goals made.



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SI'S SWIMSUIT ISSUE REALLY USED TO BE A BIG DEAL, SWEAR

Playing the Field

MATT BURKE
MATTHEW.BURKE @ METRO.US

The annual Sports Illustrated swimsuit issue is not what it used to be. That's obvious.

For years, the release of SI's second post-Super Bowl edition was one of the marquee events on the sports calendar's first quarter, right up there with the first Thursday of March Madness and Opening Day of the baseball season.

But, as video killed the radio star, the Internet killed the swimsuit model. There are no 13-year-old middle school boys waiting for hours by the mailbox on the second Wednesday in February anymore. And the window between the mailman's arrival and the time dad gets home from work is shut forever.

There is simply no skill required in viewing scantily clad women anymore. No fear of bent glossy pages. Google reigns supreme. Of course, there's no reason to go back in time, but it is worth telling "kids these days" the hell that Uncle Matt and other boys of my generation had to go through to catch a glimpse of America's No. 1 sports magazine's No. 1 issue of the year.

KATE UPTON
GETTY IMAGES

The annual issue hits the streets this week and SI is painfully trying to create cash via controversy by saying that models Robyn Lawley and Ashley Graham are "plus-size." This obviously grabs the attention of both the male and female demo as both want to (no pun) weigh in on contrived labels.

It's a clever ploy by the cash-strapped SI, a magazine that laid off its entire roster of staff photographers last month (because Sports Illustrated makes sense without the 'Illustrated,' right?).

One smart move the mag made for its 2015 issue was getting in some photos of UFC bantamweight champ Ronda Rousey, who has appeal across the board. And of course, SI is always hoping for its next Kate Upton.

IMO, the best SI swimsuit covers of all time (aka, the iconic images that put me through puberty):

1. Tyra Banks, 1997
Before she made Wendy Williams look like a sane person by comparison, Tyra was the "it" girl for all red-blooded American males.

2. Daniela Pestova, 1995
Brought the nipple to the national stage nearly a decade before Janet Jackson.

3. Kathy Ireland, Elle Macpherson, Rachel Hunter 1994 The undisputed queens of the SI swimsuit issue, this trio laid the foundation. It's obvious now that this whole deal was a Pacquiao – Mayweather scenario in terms of career timing.

LeBron hypocrisy

So, Kevin Love apparently doesn't like Cleveland enough to stay. Love's Cavs teammate LeBron James tweeted out Saturday night, "Stop trying to find a way to FIT-OUT and just FIT-IN. Be a part of something special! Just my thoughts."

Love had told ESPN earlier in the year that he wanted to "fit out" and just be himself and not try so hard to "fit in." Of course if there's one person who should be the authority on trying to "fit in" in order to stay put, long term, in northeast Ohio, it is LeBron.

Derek Jeter is dating 2015 Sports Illustrated Swimsuit covergirl Hannah Davis. / GETTY IMAGES

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